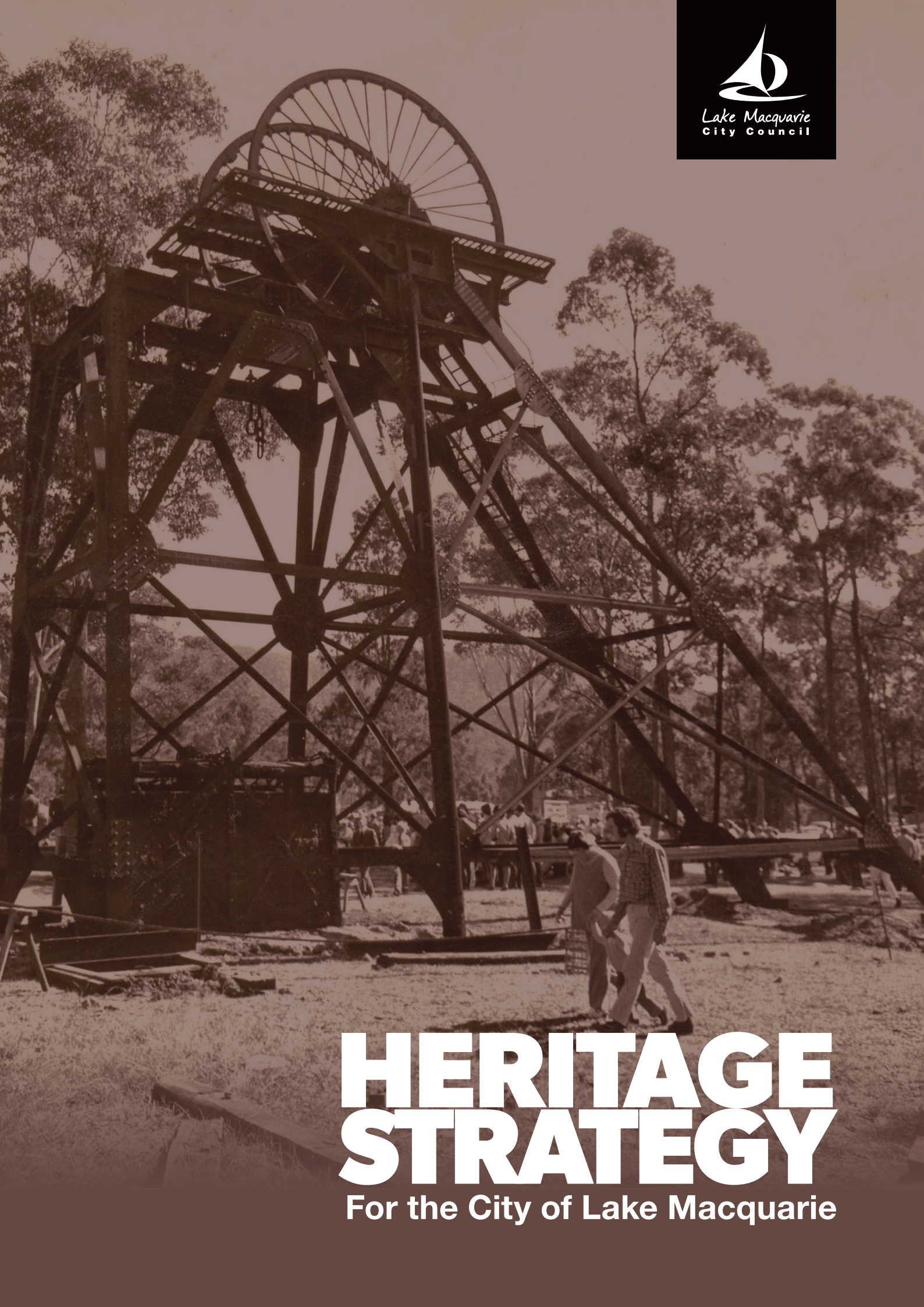




Lake Macquarie
City Council



HERITAGE STRATEGY

For the City of Lake Macquarie

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to identify the strategies the City of Lake Macquarie will employ to guide heritage management. The nine (9) recommendations for Local Council Heritage Management identified by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage have been reviewed and utilised in the preparation of this heritage strategy.

Lake Macquarie has a long history dating back to the first inhabitants, the Awabakal people more than 8000 years ago. European settlement occurred from 1826 when the first land grants were issued. Both the Aboriginal and European history have shaped the way the City of Lake Macquarie has developed and will continue to develop in the future.

The management of the City's diverse and important history and heritage needs to be a combined effort by Council, the community and land owners. This Strategy draws on Lifestyle 2030, Council's Community Plan, the Aboriginal Heritage Management Strategy and the Aboriginal Community Plan and outlines specific objectives and strategies for heritage management in Lake Macquarie.

Note: The reference to "heritage" in this document covers both Aboriginal and European heritage.



HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Objective 1 – To increase community participation, awareness and appreciation of heritage in the City of Lake Macquarie through the establishment of a heritage committee.

- Investigate the potential to re-establish a local heritage committee whose role is to advise Council on how to conserve and promote heritage items in its area. The committee may include Councillors, staff, and community representatives with specific interests in heritage matters.

IDENTIFY HERITAGE ITEMS

Objective 2 – To increase knowledge and proactive management of heritage in the City of Lake Macquarie through the identification and listing of heritage items and conservation areas.

- Maintain an up to date list of heritage items, including LEP schedule and State Heritage Inventory database as well as advise National Parks of additional items for its register of Aboriginal Sites.
- Ensure the heritage listings that are included on the State Heritage Inventory have clear statements of significance and definition of curtilage.
- Investigate methods for identifying further items of historical / heritage / cultural significance and pursue listing and inclusion on the relevant inventories.
- Investigate significance of items brought to the Council's attention as being potential heritage items.
- Consider options for the contemporary photographing of all heritage items, including budget.
- Arrange for Council's website to be linked with the State Heritage Inventory and Aboriginal Sites database on the Office of Environment and Heritage website.

HERITAGE ADVISORY SERVICE

Objective 3 – To increase community participation and proactive heritage management in the City of Lake Macquarie through the provision of professional and technical advice to Council, the community and owners and managers of listed heritage items.

- Continue to employ and train staff to manage Lake Macquarie City's heritage.
- Continue to provide professional advice to the council, community and owners of listed heritage items and items within heritage conservation areas.
- Continue to utilise the architectural and heritage conservation expertise of the Development Planner – Heritage in the assessment of development applications and pre-DA meetings where appropriate.
- Review heritage related area plans, where needed, to ensure they include appropriate heritage provisions for new developments.
- Work with local Aboriginal groups to ensure appropriate advice is given in relation to Aboriginal sites and places.

MANAGE LOCAL HERITAGE

Objective 4 – Ensure heritage is proactively and positively managed in the City of Lake Macquarie.

- Develop and implement programs and projects that aim to achieve pro-active heritage management in a positive manner.
- Provide heritage property owners and developers/designers and managers of change, with free advice on heritage controls and issues affecting their properties and developments.
- Continue to seek appropriate and sensitive development solutions with owners / developers of heritage sites.
- Investigate opportunities for publications, brochures and website material to promote heritage places, walks or tours in conjunction with local historical societies, Aboriginal groups and the tourist information centre.
- Continue to waive or reduce development application fees for residential properties and non profit groups when the proposed works are in accordance with Council's heritage provisions, details are included in Council's Fees and Charges Schedule.
- Ensure Council's planning documents include appropriate controls and guidelines for the assessment of development associated with heritage items, conservation areas and sensitive Aboriginal landscape areas.
- Continue to offer assistance through the Local Heritage Fund program.

MANAGE LOCAL HERITAGE FUND

Objective 5 – To increase community participation, management and conservation of heritage in the City of Lake Macquarie through the use of a Local Heritage Fund program.

- Continue to offer assistance through the Local Heritage Fund program to encourage and support owners of heritage items and areas to undertake conservation, maintenance, interpretation and education projects.
- Maintain and develop the Local Heritage Fund program and its ongoing budgetary support from Council.
- Incorporate a section on the council's website to promote the Local Heritage Fund program.
- Promote the fund launch yearly in the media, website and other heritage and tourist publications.

STREETSCAPE PROGRAMS

Objective 6 – To encourage Council, owners and the community to actively participate in attractive and well-managed streetscapes, including main street areas.

- Identify key heritage precincts and streetscapes within the City of Lake Macquarie.
- Investigate interest in establishing a "Main Street" or other streetscape program for heritage urban areas within the City of Lake Macquarie such as West Wallsend and Teralba.

PRESENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Objective 7 – To increase awareness and appreciation of heritage by Council, owners and the community in the City of Lake Macquarie through the presentation of educational and promotional material and programs.

- Investigate the possibility of heritage based design awards, potentially in conjunction with other councils or community organisations.
- Promote the Local Heritage Fund program in local media, including good news stories.
- Seek opportunities to promote council's role in heritage management.
- To identify sites where interpretative signage could be beneficial, such as heritage walks, archaeological sites, important cultural locations or conservation areas.
- Investigate options for education seminars including information on funding options, maintaining and restoring old buildings, Aboriginal culture or the like.
- Prepare information on heritage issues that can be included on Council's website, brochures or a newsletter.
- Continue to promote and identify new opportunities for cultural heritage tourism (both Aboriginal and European) through the tourist information centre and/or historical societies, including heritage walks, tours, sites etc.

SET A GOOD EXAMPLE

Objective 8 – To increase community participation and proactive conservation and management of heritage in the City of Lake Macquarie through the good example set by Council in the proper management of Council owned or operated heritage places.

- Aim to implement best practice heritage asset management procedures as a positive example for the community.
- Assemble and maintain a database of council owned and managed heritage assets and collate a baseline status of significance and condition to further establish future management strategies for the assets. This is dependant on recurrent budget / funding.
- Establish overall policies and management controls for maintenance and conservation of heritage listed cemeteries.
- Liaise with Council maintenance staff in relation to management and maintenance of council's heritage assets.
- Prepare or update conservation management plans for Council owned properties where required.

PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Objective 9 – To promote sustainable heritage development in the City of Lake Macquarie as a tool for heritage management.

- Promote sustainable development as a tool for heritage management.
- Continue to question rigorously, proposals to demolish structures where there is an option to adapt and reuse.
- Continue to promote the Burra Charter principles of doing as much as is necessary but as little as possible in intervening in heritage fabric.
- Encourage the use of water harvesting, energy efficiency and conservation and recycling with developments in and around heritage items.
- Promote the adaptive reuse and creative intervention in existing and significant heritage structures as being the cornerstone of sustainable building and development practice.

Image front cover: grothen, mr john
The poppet head from West Wallsend Colliery is erected,
at Freeman's Waterhole, April, 1977.







Image back cover:
Williamson, Archdeacon A.N.
Train filled with coal [West Wallsend No. 1 Colliery], circa 1889
Auchmuty Library, University of Newcastle

LAKE MACQUARIE CITY
HERITAGE STRATEGY
2017



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